



January 23, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

LS01(DMW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ William J. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Approval for Employees with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend a Reception Sponsored by the Louisiana Economic Development Organization of Louisiana State University

In accordance with 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Certain MSFC employees have been invited to attend a reception sponsored by the Louisiana Economic Development Organization (LED) of Louisiana State University, to be held in conjunction with NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate's Quarterly Program Management Review. The reception will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel, at 555 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. LED is solely responsible for all management and expense of the reception and has indicated that gifts will not be provided for attendees.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of local, state, and Congressional representatives, as well as industry representatives from Louisiana and elsewhere. The reception is valued at \$20 per person and over 300 people are expected to attend. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

LED is an organization that has as its broad objective the strengthening and well being of the Louisiana economy. To that end, it has a diverse and varied membership encompassing all major areas of industry. Some MSFC personnel participating in the LED reception have duties that may substantially affect the interests of LED members.¹

¹ These personnel include: Center Director; Deputy Center Director; Deputy Director, Launch Exploration Office; Deputy Manager, Arcs Core Stage; Manager, Flight & Integrated Test Office; Manager, CLV Project Integration; Director, Engineering Directorate; Manager, Launch Vehicle Project Office; Deputy Manager, CEV Launch Abort Systems; Mission Manager, LCROSS; Manager, Constellation Program Support Office; Associate Manager, Constellation Program Support Office; Manager, Exploration Flight Project Office; Assistant Manager, Lander Project Office; Business Manager, Lunar Precursor Robotics Program; Manager, Space Transportation Support Office Transition Director; MAF, Manager, Lunar

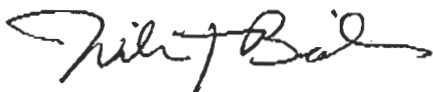
These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional or project responsibilities that could potentially significantly influence the business interest of LED's membership.

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional and project leaders at the LED reception is in the interests of the agency because such conversation and professional networking could aid in furthering agency programs and operations and because Louisiana has had a long-standing and significant role in supporting NASA programs. LED and NASA have similar interests in disseminating information about the work being conducted at NASA and other work that is in NASA's interest. The attendance of these senior NASA employees at the reception will help to raise NASA's profile with state and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's objectives.

The total per-person cost for the reception is estimated at \$20.00. Given the purpose of the event, the alignment of LED's interests with NASA's in this case, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of the reception, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional and project leaders attend the LED reception outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, MSFC employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the LED reception at the New Orleans Marriott. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. Free attendance by employees whose duties do not affect the sponsor is addressed in a separate determination.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Devinti M. Williams at (256) 544-0012.



William J. Bierbower
Chief Counsel